



**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**AUSTIN, TEXAS**  
**INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Herman Horn, Chief, Bureau of Regional/Local Health Operations  
 Regional Directors  
 Directors, Local Health Departments  
 Directors, Independent WIC Local Agencies

**FROM:** Bob Kissel, Acting Chief *mk*  
 Bureau of Nutrition Services

**DATE:** May 19, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of 2000 Census Income

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Recently, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) State office staff have received inquiries regarding whether to report income earned by individuals who conducted the 2000 Census. In order to respond to these inquiries, staff reviewed the federal legislation and consulted the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) office in Dallas with the following results:

- There is no federal legislation that requires federally-funded programs to exclude income received by individuals hired to conduct the 2000 Census.
- The USDA office in Dallas requires that income earned by Census workers be considered gross income.

Based on the above, WIC requires that income earned by individuals conducting the 2000 Census be counted when determining WIC income eligibility. Other programs that are counting Census income as part of income eligibility are the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

Since the length of employment for Census workers is generally no more than two months, WIC staff should annualize the income since annual income will be more reflective of the individual's/household income status. For example, if someone worked all of the month of April and half of the month of May, take the total amount of gross income and divide it by 12 months and this will give you the annualized monthly income (i.e. \$2,000 (April) + \$1,000 (May) = \$3,000/12 months = \$250.00/month). This amount must be added to any other household income for the family.

Unlike the National School Lunch and School Breakfast -Programs, other Federal programs such as the Food Stamp Program, Children's Health Insurance Program, and Medicaid have legislative authority under their programs to allow State agencies to waive program requirements such as counting the income of Census workers.